

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MA (RATSIMANDRAVA, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: NEW MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE'S INTERVIEW BY AFP

1. SET OUT BELOW IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE'S INTERVIEW WITH AFP AS REPORTED IN FEB 7 OFFICIAL GOMR NEWS BULLETIN "MAD PRESSE":

2. BEGIN TEXT: "GENERAL RAMANANTSOA WAS LED TO ENTRUST ME WITH HIS POWERS BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE COUNTRY, WHICH ARE BASICALLY ECONOMIC AND EXPLOITED POLITICALLY BY THOSE WHO WANTED TO RETURN TO THE OLD ORDER OF THINGS, " SAID COLONEL RATSIMANDRAVA, THE NEW CHIEF OF STATE AND CHIEF OF GOVT, IN AN EXCLUSIVE STATEMENT MADE TO AFP'S CORRESPONDENT ON THURSDAY EVENING. PARA

"I BELIEVE THAT GENERAL'S UNDERLYING REASON, REFLECTING GREAT WISDOM, WAS TO PERMIT YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER IN ORDER TO GIVE A NEW IMPETUS TO THE WILL EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE ON OCTOBER 8, 1972." PARA

"CONCERNING FOREIGN POLICY," THE COLONEL WENT ON, "WE ARE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH ALL PEOPLE. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS AS LONG AS THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY ARE NOT JEOPARDIZED ANEW." PARA

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TURNING TO INTERNAL MATTERS, COLONEL RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA

MADE IT CLEAR THAT "THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF MY
GOVERNMENT IS TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY'S FULL DEVELOPMENT." PARA

"SUCH DEVELOPMENT," THE NEW MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE ADDED,
"CORRESPONDS WITH THE POSSIBILITY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO
FLOURISH AND PROSPER IN A MORE JUST SOCIETY. THIS IS WHY
WE ARE GOING TO EMPHASIZE ACTION THAT STRUCTURES A SOCIETY
BASED ON THE "FOKONOLONA". THUS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IN THE
ECONOMIC PLAN, PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO MOBILIZATION OF
THE POPULATION." PARA

"THE GOVERNMENT'S STRUCTURE," THE COLONEL CONTINUED,
"EXACTLY REFLECTS THE AIM I HAVE JUST SET FORTH. INSTEAD OF
TEN MINISTERS, NOW WE HAVE FIFTEEN, NOT INCLUDING THE
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, WHICH I HAVE RETAINED." PARA

"I HAVE CREADED A MINISTRY OF YOUTH PRECISELY IN ORDER TO
INTEREST THEM, WHO REPRESENT OVER 60 PERCENT OF THE
POPULATION, IN ACTION FOR THE FUTURE." PARA

"I HAVE ALSO CREATED A MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND
SUPPLY TO COPE RAPIDLY WITH CURRENT PROBLEMS WHICH ARE
DUE TO FAILURES OF OUR USUAL CONTRACTORS." PARA

"FINALLY," THE CHIEF OF GOVT SAID, "I EMPHASIZE THAT I
HAVE APPOINTED GENERAL GILLES ANDRIAMAHAZO AS MINISTER
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO SO THAT HE CAN COORDINATE THE
GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES AT MY SIDE." END TEXT.
MENDENHALL

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